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Volume 01

Friday, February 9, 2001

Issue 38

Women's studies new major at UNO

Melissa Kucirek

The Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary Education unanimously approved a decision to make the UNO women's studies program a major field of study last month.

Earlier planning stages for the women's studies major had been in motion since 1995. Mary Ann Lamanna wrote the proposal, and the Nebraska Board of Regents approved the decision in August.

Women's studies has been offered as a minor since 1988.

"The critical thinking skills and gender analysis that students learn in our program prepare them to work in a variety of fields," Interim Director Karen Falconer Al-Hindi said. "We expect the program to grow steadily until we maintain a stable group of 10 to 30 majors."

Currently Falconer Al-Hindi is the only faculty member devoted full-time to women's studies, with 46 faculty members based out of "home departments" scattered throughout other colleges.

"For example, Dr. Patrice Proulx is an associate professor of French, in the foreign languages department," Falconer Al-Hindi said. "She is also a member of the women's studies faculty."

Three core courses are required, with remaining courses chosen as electives. Twenty-one hours of women's studies electives are needed to fulfill a major, while 12 hours of electives are required for a minor.

"Queen Elizabeth, Susan B. Anthony, Madonna — women's studies examines them all," Falconer Al-Hindi said. "Exploring gender roles and relations helps men

"Queen Elizabeth, Susan B. Anthony, Madonna — women's studies examines them all."

Karen Falconer Al-Hindi
Interim Director,
Women's Studies

see Women's, page 7

Mavs will try to buck Broncos for CCHA tournament bid

Cory Carlson

It will be strength-on-strength when one of the nation's best offenses faces one of the league's best goaltenders this weekend on the ice in Lawson Arena on the Western Michigan campus.

The Mavericks are in fourth place in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association, and they are looking to clinch home ice for the playoffs beginning March 9.

The Broncos have three of the CCHA's top five leading scorers, including senior forward David Gove. His 20 goals and 30 assists (50 points) lead the league. Junior forward Mike Bishai is WMU's best setup man with 35 assists and 49 total points.

Mav sophomore forward David Brisson is riding a nine-game scoring streak and needs just one point to match his single-season high of a year ago. Brisson is seventh in the CCHA in scoring with 29 points.

In the net, WMU has junior Jeff Reynaert. Reynaert has a 3.07 goals against average per game, and a 90 percent save percentage.

UNO counters with freshman sensation goalie Dan Ellis and his 91 percent save percentage.

WMU averages 3.83 goals per game. The Broncos have also been efficient on the power play, scoring on almost 21 percent of their chances. UNO has capitalized on just 14.6 percent of its power play opportunities, getting 26 goals in 178 chances.

With a strong showing this weekend, the Mavs can move into third place in the CCHA, that is, if Miami-Ohio falters.

UNO returns home to skate against CCHA fifth-place Ohio State on Feb. 16-17.

David Brisson has a nine-game scoring streak and is just one point shy of matching his personal best.

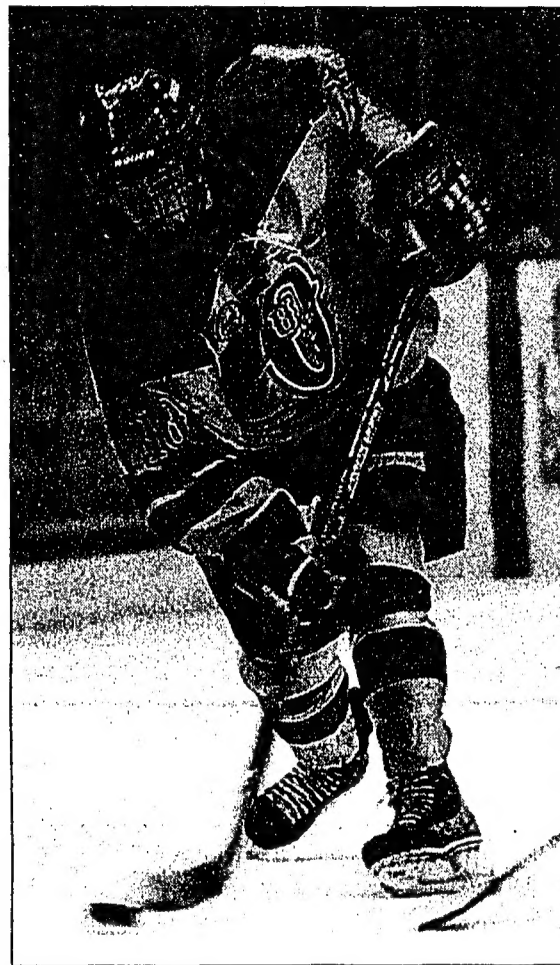


photo by Chris Machian

Former Major Leaguer and UNO Alum Bruce Benedict comes home

Cory Carlson

Bruce Benedict, two-time all-star catcher for the Atlanta Braves, committed to help make the UNO baseball program better as its No. 1 supporter at the baseball banquet Sunday at the William Thompson Alumni Center.

"I think we've dropped the ball on this program a little bit, and I am as much responsible as anybody else," Benedict said.

Benedict played for UNO from 1974-1976. He went on to play 13 seasons in the big leagues, a majority of those years with the Atlanta Braves. He is currently an advance scout with the New York Mets organization. Benedict is also an official for Division I college basketball games.

It's what we develop and what we commit to, through out time, effort, and pocketbooks to make this program the best it can possibly be," Benedict said.

Benedict had high praise for second-year baseball Head Coach Bob Herold.

"Bobby showed me what dedication to the game, caring about the game and its results, being a good teammate, being on time and being loyal was all about," Benedict said.

Benedict said hard work and being on time are now seen as the exception rather than the rule, whereas it used to be a prerequisite just to get on the field.

"You can't change the world. You can't change the game. But you can do your part," Benedict said.

He went on to say how professional athletes are more worried about how much money they make than loyalty to teammates.

"Playing baseball is a privilege and a right that's extended to you by this university," Benedict said to the current UNO players who were present.

In closing, Benedict commented on what was the hardest thing about major league baseball for him.

"No matter whether I was at my best during my all-star years, or the years when I was hitting .125, is to treat everybody the same way, every single day," he said.

WOWT News Anchor John Knicely was the Master of Ceremonies for the banquet. A highlight of the program came when Assistant Athletic Director Don Leahy singled out the 1949 team who participated in the first game between college teams.

The game was played at Rosenblatt Stadium (formerly Municipal Stadium), and Omaha University beat Creighton 16-3.

Bruce Benedict's Career Highlights

Two-time All-Star Catcher for the Atlanta Braves (1981, 1983)

Two career grand slams including one against L.A. Dodgers pitcher Fernando Valenzuela on Sept. 9, 1982
Career .242 hitter in 982 games spanning 12 years
Totalled 696 hits and 214 runs in 2,878 at-bats.



Bruce Benedict spoke to a full house at the baseball banquet Sunday at the William Thompson Alumni Center.

The Moving Company will dance in international festival

Katie Mullin

UNO's modern dance company, The Moving Company, will make its international performance debut this summer in Italy at the Dance Grand Prix Italia 2001.

"The five-year-old international dance festival will run June 20-26 in Cesena, Italy. The UNO performers will be joined by non-professional dancers from educational institutions and private dance companies around the globe," said Josie Metal-Corbin, director of The Moving Company, in a press release.

Metal-Corbin is no stranger to international performance tours. She has given performances throughout the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Portugal and France.

Though the festival showcases many different styles of dance, The Moving Company focuses on modern Metal-Corbin said.

The company of dancers, founded in 1937, features students, staff, faculty, alumni and community members ages 16-65. The performers come from a diverse dance background with training ranging from ballet to gymnastics, Metal-Corbin said.

At the festival the company will perform original dances choreographed by American modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan entitled, "Essence of Isadora."

Carol Mezzacappa, a New York-based artist, traveled to UNO to restage the piece. Mezzacappa co-directs the Young Dancers in Repertory, a modern dance education program in Brooklyn. Twelve students from this company will dance with The Moving Company at the festival.

The trip will mark the company's first performance tour as a team. The Moving Company has performed at local events such as the Summer Arts Festival, and individual members have represented the company at national festivals as soloists.

News Notes

UNO Forensics Take First Place

UNO's Forensics Team placed three first-place winners in the Feb. 2-3 "Hawk Invitational" tournament, giving Forensics Director Tim Steffensmeier's team its best performance since September.

The team qualified for three more events for nationals, which will be held in April.

"Everybody on our team contributed to our success," Steffensmeier said.

UNO finished with 30 points above 12 other schools including Creighton University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kansas State University and Hastings College.

Junior Natasha Patterson qualified for the nationals in her Program Oral Interpretation victory.

Evangeline North, a freshman from Bellevue, and Jason Dunn, a junior from Millard, took first-place honors in Parliamentary Debate.

Sophomore Joe Rohacik placed second in After Dinner Speaking and second in Dramatic Interpretation, pushing him to a total of five qualified events at nationals.

George Mason hosts the national tournament in April.

Steffensmeier's team has been preparing for the Nebraska State Tournament and the National Tournament since September.

"The team practiced every week individually," Steffensmeier said. "They put in lots and lots of hours."

Over spring break the team will compete in an international tournament in Prague, Czech Republic. UNO will also be present at a speech workshop in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Dress for success

For the second consecutive year, the Women's Resource Center will be participating in the nationwide clothes drive Dress for Success, from now until Feb. 28.

"Last year we had 60 suits, we hope to

double that this year," Assistant Director of the Women's Resource Center Sabrina Denney said.

The program assists women in interviewing attire. Each woman is given a suit for a job interview. If she is awarded the position, then Dress for Success provides an additional suit.

"The vast majority of the women are at the poverty level or below," Denney said. "There are also women from transition programs or victims of domestic violence."

UNO's center has received several suits so far, mainly from faculty members and the National Council for Negro Women.

Denney said clothing accessories are also needed.

"We take handbags, scarves, unopened hosiery, unopened cosmetics," Denney said.

Clothing and accessories can be dropped off at the Women's Resource Center, located in the Milo Bail Student Center. For more information call 554-2730.

Classical Indian music concert

UNO instructor Tomm Roland will make an appearance at the Feb. 10 Classical Indian Music Concert at First Unitarian Church at 7:30 p.m.

Roland, who is an instructor of percussion/multi-cultural affairs, is a veteran of festivals. He has participated in events such as Music From Bear Valley, The Festival of New American Music and the Percussion Currents Festival in San Francisco.

Omaha Yoga School is sponsoring the event, which also features Lesley Harrison-Roland. Harrison-Roland is a violinist who has studied South Indian classical music in Chennai, India.

Ganesh will also perform. He brings international experience, such as festivals in Tokyo and India and is the only Grammy winner from India.

Ticket are \$10 for students, \$15 for adults and children are admitted for free.

Valentine's Day gifts for him and her

by David M. Johnson

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. I'm always stuck as far as what to buy my wife on this holiday ... that is, until now. I took a day and perused some of the finer stores in Omaha for truly wonderful gift ideas.

Gifts for him

1. TagHeuer 2000 Sport watch. Quartz movement. Water resistant up to 200 meters. Sapphire crystal face with stainless steel band. Coolest of the cool. \$520. Borsheims in Regency.

2. B-3 Type World War II leather and sheepskin bomber jacket. Warm, sharp and sexy. \$274.50. Overland in the Old Market.

3. "Margarita Madness." Includes four hand-blown glasses, a bottle of margarita mix and a jar of margarita salt all piled into a large, metal ice tub complete with handles — to carry to your favorite outdoor event. Made by El Paso Chile Company. \$62.98. Sugar Bakers in Regency.

4. "Tommy" cologne sets (cologne, shower gel, aftershave). Comes with "Tommy" duffel bag. Sets run \$45-59. Duffel bags run \$17.50-19.50 with purchase. Von Maur.

5. "Jomondo" 28-ounce coffee mug. \$17.95. Add a Gloria Jean's locking coffee canister (\$9.95) and fill with one pound of his favorite blend (10.95-12.95). Gloria Jean's.

6. Tumi's "Modernist" leather organizer. Napa leather with zip-around feature. Letter pad and multi-use pockets. Top of the line. \$175. Landmark Luggage and Gift in Westroads.

7. Unusual 3-D chess set. Wood on wood. \$160. The Afternoon.

Gifts for her

1. Two tickets to "Hal + Sylvia = Be My Valentine" concert at the Orpheum Theater

with conductor Hal France and his wife soprano Sylvia McNair. Fall in love all over again. Tickets \$10.50-39.50 each.

2. Pamper her with the "Luxury Package" of a one-hour massage, facial, pedicure with paraffin treatment, manicure and cosmetic application. \$200. Garbo's.

3. "Prescriptives * potion" is just out and is the new soft fragrance. Cologne 1.7 ounce (\$45), sparkling body moisture 6.7 ounce (\$32) and sparkling body oil 5.0 ounce (\$30) available at Youkners. You'll thank yourself.

4. The cutest lingerie I saw was a two-piece 100 percent silk camisole ensemble entitled, "An Ideal Husband." \$68. Throw in a "Do Not Disturb" eye mask for \$12 and she'll sleep like a baby. Eden in the Old Market Passageway.

5. Chocolates are passé. Give her a gift basket full of treats from around the world. "Garry's Dried Fruit (\$6.25)," "Guyaux Truffles (\$9.95)," "Gille Orange Crisps (\$3.25)," "Tiramisu Caramels (\$6.50)," "La Tempesta Vanilla Almond Biscotti (\$3.25)" and a bottle of "Delicato Cabernet Sauvignon (\$7.95)." Add a "TY" teddy bear for \$10 and your basket's complete. Regency Gift and Gourmet.

6. Valentine's Day is not complete without a trip to Victoria's Secret. Get her the fleece-lined satin robe (\$98) and a bottle of "Dream Angels" heavenly lotion, perfume and wash (\$60).

7. For something a little different, buy her a "Kosta Boda" crystal bowl, made in Sweden. The "Atoll" design comes in valentine red, cobalt blue, jade, clear, white and black (\$60). Fill with Godiva cookies (\$10). Von Maur.

8. For the candle lover — "Rose Petal Rain" by Heirloom Hurricane Candles. Actual rose petals embedded in outer paraffin shell, silhouetted by a small votive candle inside. Four sizes and shapes. \$14-30. Vago Interiors in the Old Market.

What's Your Beef?



the gateway

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Yoga classes teach stressed students to relax

A.M. Renee

The life of a student can be highly stressful. Between classes and extra-curricular activities, outside jobs and family commitments, students may find that the word "relaxation" does not come up frequently in conversation.

However, in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation's yoga classes, students are learning about a centuries old practice and how to fit it into their 21st-century lifestyle.

Teaching simply "Yoga," with a second semester available for the first time this semester, UNO instructors Kerri Keelan and Jennifer Marcussen use a combination of yoga techniques to ease their students into a form which each can become comfortable with.

Keelan chooses to start off her students in the Vini discipline, which focuses on stillness and deep breathing, then introduces movement from the Iyengar style, a stylized flowing practice that encourages students to move through positions while concentrating on maintaining bodily alignment.

Marcussen's typical yoga class opens with all students relaxing on floor mats at the familiar starting position commonly known as the Lotus.

She initiates a deep breathing exercise, followed through with an encouragement to lie down and continue deep breathing.

Immediately noticeable is the hypnotic effect of her voice, common to yoga instructors. Other than the soothing sound of her voice, the room is completely silent as students focus.

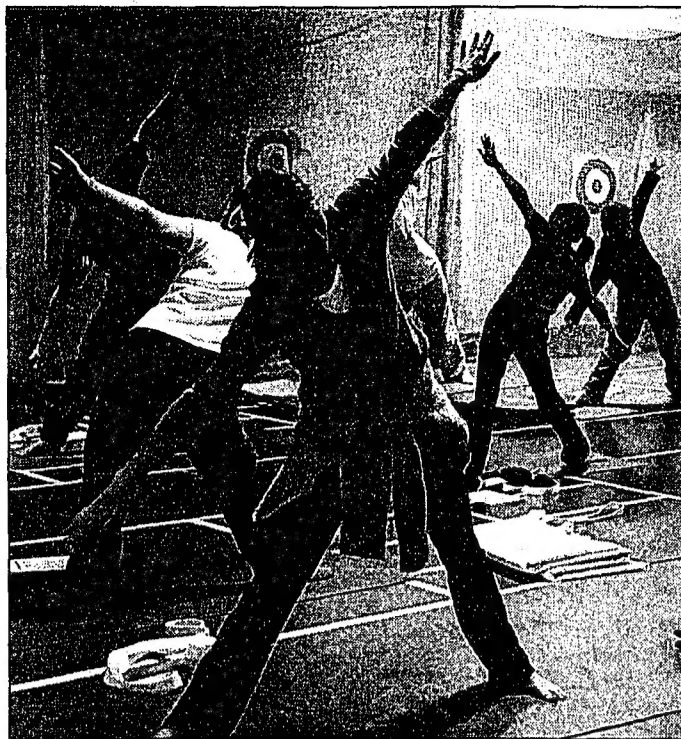
"Just breathe," Marcussen said. "Don't try to force it. It's your own inner experience that matters."

Once everyone has achieved a first relaxation, Marcussen will take them through a few poses, introducing new techniques and reinforcing principles of balance, control and alignment while reminding them of the proper Hindi terminology which names each position and movement.

Terms which have been translated into English reveal a connection and reverence for nature, as students assume the frog or mountain pose, perform the cat-stretch and the complex Salutation to the Sun.

Next door, in the HPER dance lab, Keelan takes full advantage of the mirrors and soft, adjustable lighting to help her students find a relaxation space.

To safeguard their 50 minutes of class time, she locks the door to prevent outside intrusion and insists that all students turn off their pagers and



Courtney Velupek stretches during her yoga class.

cellular phones.

"That has been the most challenging aspect with students for me, is to help them learn to be okay with stillness. Our society isn't about being still. We're always being stimulated; we're always on the go," Keelan said. "My students have to learn to be able sit still without being fidgety. Often they feel like there are other things they have to do, that they don't have the time to relax."

Teaching Yoga II, Keelan gets an opportunity for a quieter, more intimate session with her students. Many of them were instructed by her during Yoga I and are continuing their education in the practice.

While she is excited about this first opportunity to teach more yoga, part of Keelan's advice to her students is to learn techniques and practices from as many instructors as possible.

She advocates a "buffet-style" of learning, hoping her students will take away what they find most useful and incorporate it into their own daily practice.

This echoes Marcussen's admonition during the "final relaxation" period, when she advises her students to "notice any information the body has to offer you, taking what's useful and discarding the rest."

While a number of students are taking the course to fulfill credit requirements, many of them have been surprised by the benefits of the practice.

"This is great for me, and it's good for people who are stressed out, so that they can schedule a time in their day to relax," said Beth Ingalsbe, a freshman who admitted that she was initially in the class for the credit.

Keri Miller, a sophomore studying Elementary Education, was also trying to round out her schedule but intends to use the breathing and relaxation techniques learned for a particularly stressful task in the near future: childbirth.

In the darkness of the HPER golf lab, in a still room, a single soothing voice breaks the silence to dismiss the students, saying "Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!"—"Know Peace, Peace, and only Peace!"

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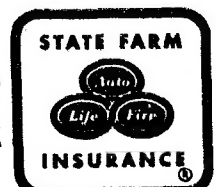
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opinions&editorials

The tax cut

Why do Democrats believe that tax cuts should be targeted and only go to a few people who pay taxes but not everyone who pays taxes?

Yeah, it didn't make any sense to me either. What's even more interesting is that Democrats are saying their target tax cuts are fair, and the Republican plan is not.

If we look at the plans, it's crystal clear the Democrats aren't being fair.

The tax cut Al Gore campaigned on was to have targeted tax cuts for the middle and lower classes, leaving out people who make "good money".

Not a bad idea in theory, but a bad idea if ever put into practice.

I'm going to help everyone stop worrying right now by being brave and defending the "rich" people. If I learned one thing from any of my math teachers in high school, it was this: the top one-fifth of wage earners in the country pay over half of all the taxes, and the Democrats say those people don't deserve to receive some of the surplus back.

I don't get it. If such a small portion of the taxpayers pay most of the bills, why are Democrats leaving them out?

The Bush plan is simple. President Bush is proposing an across the board rate cut for every single tax bracket, raising the child credit from \$500 to \$1,000, abolishing the estate tax and easing up on the marriage tax. I would like to see the marriage tax totally abolished and a cut in the capital gains tax.

Everyone will benefit from the tax cut. Taxpayers will receive a fair amount back for the amount they paid in. I don't see how this is unfair.

I'll tell you what is unfair. Picture employees in corporate America. These employees have worked hard throughout their days in high school and college, and even went on to some prestigious grad school for M.B.A.s. They worked very hard to climb the



The Right Way

column by
Aaron Winters

corporate ladder. They are making salaries well into the six-figure range. They have bills to pay and they need to save for retirement just like everyone else. They have worked very hard to achieve all the successes that they have, personally and financially. Under a Democratic tax cut, they will be denied any cut. Democrats figure that these people are so well off and have so much money that they won't mind not getting any tax relief. Keep in mind these people worked to get where they are, and look how Democrats want to treat them.

A Republican tax cut would include these hard-working individuals and give them tax relief along with every other taxpayer. To anyone who thinks this is purely hypothetical, keep in mind when tax relief comes up years from now, this could be you!

If that is you in the future, think to yourself for a moment. Would you want Democrats to treat you like that? Wouldn't you not only want tax relief but also get back a fair amount?

I think if we all answered those questions, the vast majority of us would want fair tax relief. Anyone who doesn't mind his or her money going to someone else can donate their cut of the surplus to charity.

I'm not against tax relief for the middle and lower class families; I simply believe that everyone who pays in should get some back, and what they get back should be proportional to what they paid in. That is the best and most fair way to go.

On a lighter note, earlier this week former President Ronald Reagan had his 90th birthday and I hope he had a great one and his recovery from hip replacement surgery continues to go well.



Capel Cottage Revue

column by David Johnson

Bill Cosby and 15,000 students at Brigham Young University signed a petition requesting the state lawmakers make Jell-O the official state snack food.

Ah yes, Jell-O and kids. What's that old saying? We don't care how you bring 'em, as long as you Brigham Young.

• It's A Simple Matter Of Supply And Demand ... Blood Supply And Ublido Demand

Forestry officials in the Malaysian state of Perak are trying to slow down the illegal harvesting of "tongkat ali," a plant root said to enhance the sexual prowess of men. Use of the plant results in increased blood circulation and an increased libido, although the latter effect may be more psychological than physiological. Manufacturers are processing tongkat ali into canned drinks. Demand is very high.

Personally, I don't believe in aphrodisiacs. Honey ... where's my ticket to Kuala Lumpur?

• Now, Here's Something I Can Believe

In a bid to get Germans to save more electricity (on top of last year's new eco-tax), the Environment Ministry has turned to risqué advertising. A poster campaign, introduced by the ministry, shows a sexy young female

see Cruisin', page 7

Government-sanctioned murder



Left Field

column by
Ryan McGrane

Iraq, Iran and China — these are three nations the United States condemns for various human rights abuses on what seems like a daily basis. Pitifully, what most Americans do not realize is that with those and scores of other nations, our country participates in the most egregious violation of human rights: the death penalty.

Our closest allies have ended the death penalty as a form of criminal punishment. The United Nations Human Rights Commission passed the Resolution Supporting Worldwide Moratorium On Executions in April of 1999. Along with countries such as China, Pakistan, Rwanda and Sudan, our compassionate and enlightened democracy voted against the resolution.

The death penalty is one of the most glaring blights on our nation. How can a civilized nation which counts life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness among its tenets execute its own citizens? The moral issues behind the death penalty notwithstanding, the pure idiocy of the judicial process and procedure are the stuff of infamy.

First, the death penalty is historically racist. In 1972, the Supreme Court ruling in Furman vs. Georgia abolished the death penalty for four years because the entire system was saturated with racial disparities. Unfortunately, the death penalty was reinstated, supposedly without the racist tendencies. However, the moratorium did not end these problems.

According to the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, since it was reintroduced in 1976, only 10 of the 623 executions involved a white defendant who has killed a black victim. If fact, in our nation's history 18,000 people have been executed, but only 37 of those were for a white person killing a black person. Another sickening statistic from the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund is that although 12 percent of the population is African-American, they make up 55.5 percent of death row inmates.

Second, the death penalty seems to like poor people more than affluent people. Again the CEDP offers the remarkable statistic that more than 90 percent of defendants in death penalty cases are indigent or cannot afford adequate legal representation. With few exceptions, the legal council provided by the state is woefully inadequate anyway. In fact, President Clinton (a moderate Republican deep down) cut federal funding for these types of defense funds 20 percent while still in office. Not giving fellow citizens decent,

respectable and able attorneys when the government attempts to murder them is unbelievably cruel punishment, just as the penalty they are fighting against.

Third, the death penalty kills innocent people. In what should be a lesson for the entire nation, Illinois has released as many people from death row as it has executed since 1976. Because of that fact and exceptional reporting by the Chicago Tribune, Illinois Governor George Ryan was brave and forthright enough to place a moratorium on executions there. Given that the death penalty is the ultimate and most grisly punishment the state administers, we might assume that they want to be absolutely certain that the defendant is guilty of the crime. However, in recent years more and more death row inmates have been exonerated. Since 1976, Amnesty International has documented more than 85 people who were released from death row and walked out the front gate because they were innocent. We might imagine that because of these facts, politicians and the public would want to at least examine the process, if not abolish it.

No. Not wanting to be tagged "soft on crime," few politicians have the courage and compassion to call for its abolishment. In fact, President Clinton has called appeals by some death row inmates "ridiculous" and signed a law that limited prisoners to a single habeas corpus appeal within the first year after their conviction. We can also easily assume that with a new, execution-happy resident in the White House, the situation will not improve any.

The death penalty is morally wrong and humanly apprehensible. In 1948, the United Nations recognized this fact in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Tragically, the United States cannot seem to grasp this fact. We are one of the few countries in the world that reserves the right to execute someone who committed their crime while still a minor.

We constantly tout and promote ourselves as role model to the world. What this makes us look like is the most hypocritical and asinine country in the world.

The moral wrongs innately embedded in the death penalty could take up another dozen columns. The motivation behind the death penalty is not justice; it is revenge and retribution. As Gandhi said, "An eye for an eye, and everyone is blind."

Cruisin' the News

• The Power Of One

One person complained. Just one. Tom Anan e-mailed University of Iowa President Mary Sue Coleman to complain that the Hawkeye marching band's playing and singing of "In Heaven, There Is No Beer" sends the wrong message about college kids and drinking. Coleman decided to allow the playing of the music, but banned the singing of the lyrics by band members.

Next thing you know, we'll be changing the name of Allwine Hall.

• I Had An Asteroid Once, But I Got Some Cream To Clear It Up

Scientists have had a spacecraft orbiting asteroid 433 Eros for more than three years taking pictures and analyzing its dust. With fuel for the craft slated to run out on Feb. 14, mission director Robert Farquhar says his Johns Hopkins team will try to land it on the potato-shaped rock two days earlier. They put chances for a soft landing at about 1 percent, but think the camera will still work even if it crashes. "We thought it would be better to go out with a bang than a whimper," Farquhar said.

Eros. Valentine's Day. Bang. Those randy, little scientists.

• Jell-Olympics

Kraft Foods' sales figures indicate people who live in Utah consume the most Jell-O per person in the world. The Salt Lake City Olympic committee has already begun issuing pins for the 2002 Winter Games on which appears a bowl of green Jell-O. Spokesman



the gateway

Editorial and letter policy

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the University of Nebraska at Omaha or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

Opinions in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Gateway staff or the publications committee.

Letters to the editor will be selected for publication on the basis of

timeliness, clarity and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication.

Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writers address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.



Movie Review

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

film Review by T.J. Accola

After months of hype, the most publicized foreign film since 1997's "Life is Beautiful" has opened in Omaha. Usually a film with this much hype is bound to disappoint more than a few viewers. Fortunately, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" delivers on every level ... and then some.

Elegant, romantic and awe-inspiring, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is genre-crossing at its best. Forget the buzz about the fight sequences in the film — "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" has not one, but two love stories that are both easily the envy of any romance film of the past few years.

The fact that "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is a period drama set in feudal China and the dialogue is spoken in Mandarin only enhances that elegance.

The somewhat simple story betrays the fact that "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is so many things at once — a coming-of-age tale, love story and martial arts display, among many others.

Yu Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh) is entrusted by Li Mu Bai (Chow Yun-Fat) to deliver a mystical jade sword, the Green Destiny, to the city of Chungking. However, the Green Destiny is stolen from its new home, releasing a torrent of events — both deadly and unifying in nature.

Yu and Li work to retrieve the sword, which puts them at odds with Jen (Zhang Ziyi), the young daughter of a nobleman.

Yu suspects Jen is the thief, but perhaps seeing a bit of familiar rebelliousness in her, gives Jen the opportunity to return the sword. However, Jen, with all her young swagger, pulls Yu and Li further into intrigue through her alliance with Jade Fox, a mysterious assassin who killed Li's mentor years ago.

The crux of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" then becomes three-fold: Will Yu and Li be able to corral young Jen and guide her in the right direction? Will Li ultimately exact revenge upon Jade Fox? And will Yu and Li finally unite as lovers?

It may sound like a few too many plotlines to thread together, but director Ang Lee manages to rein in all of them, even making them simple to follow and thus solidifying his reputation as the world's premier multi-genre director. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" seems to gather the director's portfolio of work into one film; period piece ("Sense & Sensibility"), generational relations ("The Ice Storm") and even Western ("Ride With the Devil") can all be found.

But the one element those films did not possess, which "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" does, is the oft-mentioned martial arts sequences. As much word of mouth would have you

believe, the fight sequences in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" are not unlike those seen in "The Matrix." However, there is really only one similarity between the two: legendary fight choreographer Woo-ping Yuen.

Rather than ultra-stylish squareoffs a la "The Matrix," the combat seen in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" seems much more an artistic embellishment to an already brimming tale. The characters in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" don't seem to very much relish having to fight one another — instead, it is a matter of necessity. And that is just how Lee seems to approach the magnificent fight sequences — as matters of necessity to which he has added his own amazing artistic flourishes.

Perhaps what has allowed "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" to captivate so many viewers, male and female alike, is its transcendence of such insignificant barriers. Think of the film as a martial arts film with a feminist slant (the women in the film kick much more collective ass than the guys, after all). Or think of it as a love story with a bit of macho fighting ("The English Patient" meets "The Last Emperor" meets "Enter the Dragon"). It doesn't really matter, as "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" escapes any classical definition, which, in this case, is a very very good thing.

Grade: A

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'The Meeting' shows possibilities

review by Joe Simmons

The Nebraska Room in the Milo Bail Student Center was the scene for a one-act play called "The Meeting" Feb. 5.

The play, a portrayal of an imaginary meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., kicked off UNO's Black History Month events.

Andre Minkens was memorable in the role of Malcolm X. Kip Ryan did a good job of playing Martin Luther King Jr., and Tony Patterson was featured as Rashaad, Malcolm X's bodyguard.

It has been historically known that there was at least one unintentional meeting between the two; they were in the same building at a function and stumbled upon each other by surprise. There is one photograph of them shaking hands and smiling that serves as evidence of this informal event. But one question still remains — was there an unknown meeting of importance that took place between both of them?

"The Meeting" creatively answers this question, presenting the opposing views of the nonviolent Christian and the militant Muslim.

Even though the two leaders have different personalities and leadership styles, they are united by the color of their skin in an era of hardship, pain and important change. During the play they realize they are working toward the same goal — social justice for black Americans.

At the beginning of the piece, a dialogue is shared between Malcolm X and his bodyguard. A chess board is used as an

'Even though the two leaders have different personalities and leadership styles, they are united by the color of their skin in an era of hardship, pain and important change.'

allegory for the "game" of civil rights that was (and is) occurring in America. This is a clever device, for the rest of the performance is a battle of wits between King and Malcolm X, each expressing his opinion on how to handle the hatred some whites inflicted on blacks through prejudice, discrimination and violence.

What is interesting is the fact that historical incidents were included in the conversation between King and Malcolm X, such as Malcolm X's pilgrimage to Mecca and the bombing of his house by his fellow Muslims upon his return to the United States. King's sit-ins and marches are included as the two compare their methods of retaliation in a white-versus-black world.

Tensions run high throughout the act as King and Malcolm X try to understand each other, and a symbolic struggle is also made evident through an on-and-off arm wrestling competition between the two. After their arguments, peace is made through the exchange of gifts and realization that they are working in the same fight.

I highly recommend you see "The Meeting" at some point for yourself. Because UNO hosted a one-time-only showing of the play, you may want to read a copy of the script or catch it at another venue in the future.

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Mav softball aims to repeat NCC title

David M. Johnson

Head Coach Jeanne Tostenson's softball team heads west to open the season at Pueblo, Colo., this weekend. The Mavs will take part in the 12-team Southern Colorado Thunderwolves Invitational.

UNO, North Central Conference champions last season with a 52-14 record, begins play Feb. 9 at 10:30 a.m. against the Pioneers of Texas Woman's University in the Blue Pool elimination tournament. At 2:30 p.m. the squad tackles Julie Garcia's New Mexico Highland Cowgirls and follows that with a 4:30 p.m. game against the hosting Southern Colorado Thunderwolves.

The Thunderwolves are coached by Marty Blowers, who has accumulated a 77-58-1 mark in three years at the helm.

Saturday's play will be based on Friday's win-loss record, pitting teams from the Blue Pool against those in the Red and White pools.

Other teams competing include: Abilene Christian, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Northern Colorado, Colorado School of Mines, Mesa State College, Texas Wesleyan University, Panhandle State and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

The Mavericks return a solid nucleus from last year's team. UNO's pitching is battle-tested with senior Michelle Manthei (24-7, 131 strikeouts, 1.35 earned run average) and sophomore sensation Krista Unger (27-7, 105 Ks, 1.28 ERA).

Offensively, UNO returns four of the top five batters from last year's squad. Leading the list is senior Jeanne Averill (.384 average), followed by senior Jenny Redlinger (.373), junior Kelsey Duckworth (.363, 82 hits) and junior Jennifer Carson (.359, 20 doubles).

Women's basketball on road this weekend

Cory Carlson

UNO travels to St. Cloud, Minn., on Friday and Mankato, Minn., on Saturday in a push to make the North Central Conference postseason tournament.

The Mavericks (7-14), having dropped four of their last five games, tip-off against the Huskies at 6 p.m. on Friday. A win against SCSU would go a long way in assuring a postseason berth for Head Coach Lisa Carlsen's young team.

SCSU, 15-5 overall, 8-4 in NCC, has solidified fourth place in the conference. Its leader in almost every statistical category is junior guard Tina Schreiner.

Schreiner is coming off of a week in which she was named NCC Player of the Week for the third time this season and the second time in the past three weeks. She leads the team in scoring (19.2 ppg), rebounds (9.1) and steals (2.4).

The Huskies defeated the Mavs Jan. 13, 86-75 at Sapp Fieldhouse. The Mavs will have to also keep an eye on sophomore guard Jessica Abrahams who hit 4-7 from behind the arc in the first game.

On Saturday, the Mavs face NCC ninth-place Minnesota State-Mankato, 6-16 overall, 3-9 in NCC. MSU is led by junior forward and co-captain Jenny Groom who is averaging 11.2 points and 7.2 boards per game. She is the only MSU player averaging in double figures in scoring.

UNO beat MSU 66-51 on Jan. 12 when freshman guard Erin Wessling lit up the "other" Mavericks for 19 points on her 19th birthday.

A key substitute off the bench for MSU has been sophomore Susan Salonek. Salonek leads the team in three-pointers made (34) and is second on the team in scoring at 8.1 points per game.

A sweep this weekend could put UNO as high as tied for fifth in the NCC with three regular season games to go. The Mavs return home Feb. 16 to host Augustana at Sapp Fieldhouse.

Final home stand for senior grapplers

Melissa Kucirek

The NCAA Division II No. 1 UNO wrestling team (7-2) faces No. 3 Central Oklahoma (12-1-1) in a non-conference dual tonight at Sapp Fieldhouse beginning at 7:05 p.m. In tomorrow's action, the Mavs meet North Central Conference foe Augustana College for a 7 p.m. appointment.

This weekend's events mark the final home appearance for UNO seniors Mack LaRock, Scott Antoniak, Ricky Frausto and Alan Cartwright.

The Central Oklahoma Bronchos are last year's national champion runner-ups. Head Coach David James, in his 19th season at the helm, has coached 17 consecutive top-four finishing teams and owns 11 straight Midwest regional titles. James took 1999-2000 Coach of the Year citations.

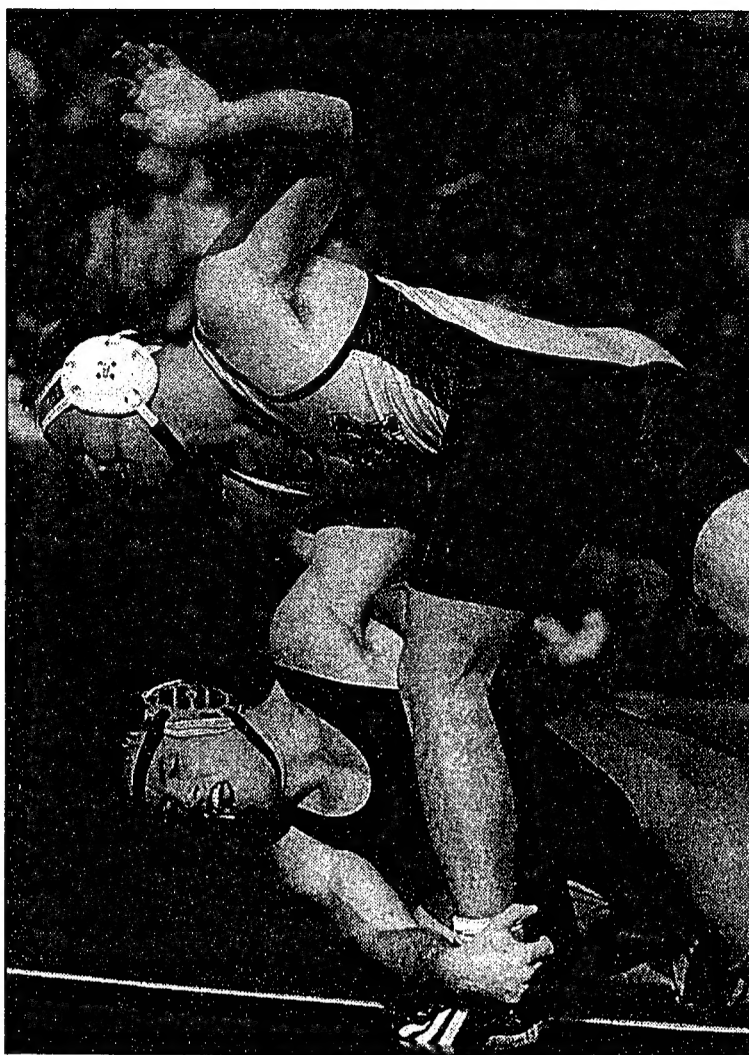
Outstanding Broncho wrestlers are senior Gable Sullivan (149 pounds), a two-time All-American, and defending national champion Mark Dodgen (125 lbs), a junior from Ponca City, Okla. Dodgen sat out last week against Truman State due to a shoulder injury.

UNO's LaRock will be vying for revenge against Dodgen. The two met in a quarter-final dogfight last year at nationals. No. 6 Dodgen surged late to topple No. 3 LaRock 5-3.

Tonight's match will be televised on NETV 2, as well as www.unotv.unomaha.edu.

Augustana (5-8-1) comes into Saturday's dual with a No. 20 ranking. The Vikings, under Head Coach Kraig Presler, meet the Mavs coming off last weekend's 19-20 loss to Fort Hays State University.

Junior James Garvey (heavyweight) is looking to become a three-time All-American. Garvey is ranked No. 6 and boasts a 21-7 record.



Scott Antoniak and UNK's Ty Swarm go at it during Friday night's action. Antoniak won 2-1.

"I don't think he (Garvey) has shown all his potential yet," Presler said.

Other Viking wrestlers getting the nod are Seth Webster (149 lbs) and Jacob Romos (133 lbs).

"Looking at our lineup, these three are making the strongest statements that they're going to be around come nationals," Presler said.

Augustana will forfeit the 184-pound competition. Sam Kenton, a 2000 All-American, is redshirting this season.

"I haven't worried about the team score in our last matches," Presler said. "Dual meets are like a special kind of practice for us."

Men's basketball faces uphill battle over weekend

Cory Carlson

UNO goes for wins number three and four in the North Central Conference this weekend at fourth-place St. Cloud State on Friday and seventh-place Minnesota State-Mankato on Saturday.

The Mavericks (8-13) have lost three games in a row, but have shown improvement. UNO Head Coach Kevin Lehman's team took the game to the wire before losing by three points last Friday.

St. Cloud State (15-4, 8-4 in NCC) has lost just four games all year, three of which came at the hands of the top two teams in the league.

The Huskies are led by all-around junior forward Rado Rancik. Rancik just scored his 1,000th career point last weekend, and is third in the NCC in both scoring (17.3 points a game) and blocked shots (1.2).

The one-two punch of Rancik and guard Forest ("Don't call me Gump") Witt were too much for UNO in an 87-73 loss on Jan. 13.

Rancik had 19 points and eight

rebounds. Witt led all scorers with 21 points, including a red-hot 5-8 from three-point range.

The Mavericks face a team on a similar downward swing Saturday in Mankato, Minn. MSU (11-9, 4-8 in NCC) has lost its last three contests but is 8-2 in its new home, the Bresnan Arena. As a team, MSU leads the NCC in blocked shots per game (3.78) and is second in scoring defense, giving up a paltry 68 points a game.

The "other" Mavericks beat UNO at Sapp Fieldhouse 81-64 on Jan. 12. Forward Jay Ziemke led the way for MSU with 19 points. Center Nick Ellenberger had a double-double with 14 points and 14 boards.

Ellenberger leads MSU in scoring, averaging 14.1 points and 8.4 rebounds per game.

Sophomore Seth Nelson continues to shine for UNO. He is fourth in the NCC in scoring (16.2 ppg) and fourth in steals (2.1).

UNO returns home Feb. 16 for its last home stand of the year against Augustana and South Dakota State.

#31 Eddie King goes for a lay-up during last weekend's action against the Coyotes.



photo by Josh Williamson

Sports Schedule

Friday, Feb. 9, 2001

NCAA Division II No. 1 UNO wrestling (7-2) hosting
No. 3 Central Oklahoma (12-1-1) at Sapp Fieldhouse 7:05 p.m. KYNE-TV.
UNO softball (0-0) at Southern Colorado Tournament 10:30 a.m.
UNO hockey (16-12-2) at Western Michigan (18-8-5) 6:05 p.m.
UNO women's basketball (7-14) at St. Cloud State (15-5) 6 p.m.
UNO men's basketball (8-13) at St. Cloud State (15-4) 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2001

UNO track at Central Missouri Relays. 10 a.m.
UNO wrestling hosting Augustana (5-8-1) at Sapp Fieldhouse 7 p.m.
UNO softball at Southern Colorado Tournament TBA
UNO hockey at Western Michigan 6:05 p.m.
UNO women's basketball at Minn-Mankato (6-16) 6 p.m.
UNO men's basketball at Minn-Mankato (11-9) 8 p.m.

from Cruisin', page 4

claiming the new taxes meant more sex for her. The caption reads: "Those who turn their lights off more often get rewarded — one way or the other."

Those randy, little Lutherans.

• Young Chow Yun-Fat

Chinese movie star Chow Yun-Fat ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") says the secret to staying young is ... stupidity. "You see, I am very stupid," Chow said. "I am like an idiot."

Be like this every day, and you'll be young."

Well, that explains why Al Gore looks 25.

• Let See Them Wrigley Out Of This One

Russian scientists say blondes should not chew gum. According to a recent study, blondes do not have the enzymes needed to break down the amino acid phenylalanine, found in gum, putting them at risk of hormonal imbalances, retardation, excessive levels of adrenaline and nervous disorders.

So that's why.

from Women's, page 1

and women today understand their own experiences and helps prepare students to work in a wide variety of jobs where gender is very important, including education, social work and business."

Falconer Al-Hindi said although a formal internship program has not been established, interested students can easily set an internship up by working through the women's studies indepent course with the director (Falconer Al-Hindi) in an agency they are interested in.

Falconer Al-Hindi said there will be a March appearance by Sako Ogata. She hopes Ogata's lecture will benefit the entire UNO

community.

"(Ogata) will give a talk about the comparative histories of reproductive rights in the U.S. and Japan," Falconer Al-Hindi said.

She believes faculty and students with an interest in gender roles will find women's studies courses beneficial to research and thesis work.

The women's studies office is located in Arts and Sciences Hall Room 307A. Course listings follow sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Falconer Al-Hindi says future information on course listings will be posted on bulletin boards throughout campus, as well as in the women's studies office.

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SPRING FIRST SESSION INTRAMURAL SPORTS

B LEAGUE TOP TEN

For 5x5 Basketball

(After Week 1)

As determined by The Mav-Rec Crew!

rank	team	
1.	X-Men	1-0
2.	Raptors	1-0
3.	Sugar Ray's Fun Police	1-0
4.	Mo's Free Agents	1-0
5.	Sig Ep B	1-0
6.	Lords of The Underworld	1-0
7.	Bedu Crew	1-0
8.	Smoke II	0-1
9.	Pike B	1-0
10.	Mats	0-1

Comments: So much for Smoke II. Like I said last week, no idea who anyone is yet. Mo's Free Agents probably had the most impressive victory, but lets just say that the competition was a little suspect. X-Men did show up and play and win, so THEY are the new #1 team... for now. Who knows what might change between now and the tournament? Bedu Crew only needed four players to post their victory against the Tritons, keep it up, fellas; you might get that t-shirt someday. (Not in our lifetime, though) Look for the big showdown between Raptors and Sugar Ray's Fun Police Sunday that might actually be a decent B League game.

A LEAGUE TOP TEN

For 7x7 Flag Football

(After Week 1)

As determined by The Mav-Rec Crew!

rank	team	
1.	Diversity III	1-0
2.	In It 4 The Shirt	1-0
3.	Sig Ep A	1-0
4.	The Commission	1-0

5.	Old School	0-1
6.	Run & Gun	0-1
7.	Team Dirt	1-0
8.	The Intramural Champions	0-1
9.	Pike A	1-0
10.	The Nets	1-0

Comments: A good first week of action, with the top four teams all having impressive wins. Pike A did have a forfeit victory, but they play Sig Ep A this week, so we'll see if they're for real or just beating up on some second tier team. Team Dirt defeats the Free Agents, but just barely, and with some questionable roster movement, so they don't go anywhere for now. The Intramural Champions put up a fight against The Commission, but they just didn't mach up well. Look for The Big East to be the showcase league... bad news for The Nets, who don't look to have too many weapons right now. Diversity III and In It 4 The Shirt both had impressive wins, so they hold on to the top two spots. THE ROCK says to still look for those two teams in the finals, with The Commission looking like the third choice and Sig Ep A the dark horse.

GAMES OF THE WEEK

Mo's Free Agents vs. Sig Ep B - Wed., 7 pm
Pike A vs. Sig Ep A - Wed., 8 pm
Lords of the Underworld vs. X-Men - Sun., 5 pm
Team Dirt vs. Young Guns - Sun., 5 pm
Raptors vs. Sugar Ray's Fun Police - Sun., 7 pm
Bedu Crew vs. Smoke II - Sun., 9 pm
and the game of the week...
Old School vs. In It 4 The Shirt - Sun., 7 pm

<http://www.unomaha.edu/~wwwocr/>

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Slam Dunk Contest - Feb. 27
Three Point Shootout - Mar. 1

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Mon 2/5, 12 noon-1 pm
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MBSC State Room

Fri. 2/9, 9 am-12 noon
Group Member Skills
MBSC Counsel Room

Mon. 2/12, 7-9:30 pm
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Come Dance With Me
HPER 230
Feb. Sundays (4,11,18,25) 2-3pm
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Depending on what The Ground Hog sees or doesn't see...Golf days maybe upon us shortly. Dust-off the clubs and join us for one of these great classes:

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Saturdays in February (3,10,17,24)
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